

Dr. Rowe has touched the lives of numerous students and educators. He should be honored and commended for his dedication to the RFT program and the surrounding community. Through his instruction and guidance, Dr. Rowe has enabled students to realize their potential and become successful adults.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Dr. Rowe for his years of service and dedication to the Northern Virginia community. His contributions and efforts are noted and greatly appreciated.

HONORING THE DEDICATION OF
UNITED INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER JUAN
A. MOLINA, JR.

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contribution of United Independent School District Board Member Juan A. Molina, Jr. in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Juan A. Molina, Jr. is the newest member to join the United ISD Board of Trustees. Molina was elected to the district four seat on May 15, 2004. Molina will serve parents and students attending L.B. Johnson H.S., United South H.S., Los Obispos M.S., United South M.S., the new Centeno Elementary, Perez Elementary, Prada Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Ruiz Elementary, and Salinas Elementary.

Molina serves on the school district's Student Expulsion Appeals Committee. UISD also has two board members who represent the district's property value interests on the Webb County Appraisal District's (five-member Board of Directors), Juan A. Molina, Jr. is one of two UISD representatives.

Molina was born, raised, and educated in Laredo. He spent his after school hours working part-time in his family's business. He is a 1988 graduate of Nixon High School. After obtaining a computer programming and business management degree from Computer Business Management Systems, Molina went to work with his father for six years. He eventually purchased the business from his father in 1994. Under his leadership, the business has prospered and has expanded into new fields. Molina is the owner of South Texas Neon Signs.

Molina is married and has three children who attend UISD schools. "I am involved in my children's education through participation in the school PTC's and as a Site Based Decision Making Committee member of two schools. I am also a Cub Scout Master because I believe in our kids and want to see a better future for them." Molina has gone through special training sessions to provide Laredo Boy Scouts with more camping and outdoor learning opportunities. His new training has allowed him to direct an adventure weekend and assist in another. He helped organize and direct a scout show and "Spookery" at Camp Huisache. Molina plays an active role in the Perez Elementary Boy Scout Color Guard. In addition, he was also a little league assistant coach for two years. He is involved with his church as a choir

member, and as an active participant in the annual fund-raising Jamaica.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of United Independent School District Juan A. Molina, Jr.

CONGRESS MUST ACT TO PRE-
VENT VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, for more than 10 years, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) has helped protect women in this country from violence, abuse, sexual assault, and sexual predators. This landmark piece of legislation was achieved in part by the bipartisan efforts of the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues, of which I am proud to be a member.

VAWA has provided improved access to services and resources for victims of violence and their families. It has made a real difference in the lives of women and children, who no longer suffer in silence.

Community programs funded through VAWA aid law enforcement officers and prosecutors, encourage arrest policies, stem domestic violence and child abuse, establish and operate training programs for victim advocates and counselors, and train probation and parole officers who work with released sex offenders. VAWA has also led to the creation of battered women's shelters, rape prevention and education programs, the reduction of sexual abuse of runaway and homeless street youth, and community programs on domestic violence.

Despite the success of this legislation, we still have much work to do.

One out of every four women will experience domestic violence during her lifetime. Equally alarming is that women ages 16 to 24 experience the highest per capita rates of intimate partner violence.

VAWA is up for reauthorization in this Congress. We must come together to put forward a bill that strengthens and improves our efforts to combat violence against women, including doing more for violence prevention. An essential component of prevention must be to increase outreach to young people.

We must also encourage adequate funding of VAWA initiatives. Unfortunately, each year we fall further behind in fulfilling the promises made in the authorization of VAWA. This year alone the Bush budget is more than \$163 million short of the goal.

As we recognize the vital role of the Violence Against Women Act, I urge my colleagues to reauthorize VAWA in a bipartisan way and to dedicate the necessary resources to fulfill its mission.

COMBATING HUMAN TRAFFICKING:
ACHIEVING ZERO TOLERANCE

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 9, 2005

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak regarding U.S. efforts to combat human trafficking.

The U.S. Government now estimates that 600,000 to 800,000 women, children and men are bought and sold across international borders each year and exploited through forced labor or commercial sex exploitation, and potentially millions more are trafficked internally within the borders of countries. Eighty percent of the victims are women and girls. An estimated 14,500 to 17,500 foreign citizens are trafficked into the United States each year.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights in the late 1990s, I led an effort to end the scourge of trafficking by sponsoring the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA), P.L. 106-386, which was signed into law in December 2000. In 2003, I sponsored a reauthorization of that Act which also became law.

These two pieces of legislation created a comprehensive framework for combating trafficking in persons abroad, as well as the trafficking of foreign nationals into the United States. As a result, our government has been a leader in addressing this human rights violation and encouraging other governments to do the same. When I held the first hearing on trafficking, back in 1999, only a handful of countries had laws explicitly prohibiting the practice of human trafficking. Individuals who engaged in this exploitation did so without fear of legal repercussions. Victims of trafficking were treated as criminals and illegal immigrants—governments did not offer them assistance to escape the slavery-like conditions in which they were trapped, and few NGOs were equipped to offer survivors of trafficking the restorative care needed to heal physically, mentally and spiritually from the trauma they experienced. Little was being done to prevent others from being exploited in the same way.

The situation today is remarkably improved. Since taking office, the Bush Administration has devoted more than \$295 million to combat trafficking in more than 120 countries. Across the globe, governments are taking action to prevent trafficking, to prosecute the exploiters, and to give hope and restoration to those victimized by trafficking. As Ambassador Miller testified to Congress last summer, between 2003 and 2004, twenty-four countries enacted new laws to combat trafficking. Dozens more were in the process of drafting or passing such laws. Moreover, nearly 8,000 traffickers were prosecuted worldwide and 2,800 were convicted. Shelters have been set up for victims. NGOs and faith communities have reached out to help heal survivors of trafficking.

In order to support the ongoing efforts that have made these gains possible, on February 17, I introduced, along with this Subcommittee's Ranking Member, Rep. DONALD PAYNE, and eight other original co-sponsors, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, H.R. 972. This bill would reauthorize appropriations for anti-trafficking programs here and abroad. The bill also offers solutions